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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 19 SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY, 1937 NUMBER 1

December 1936 Field Trip

The December field trip was taken on the 13th to the University of California campus, Berkeley, California. Meeting at University Avenue and Oxford Street, twelve members and seventeen guests, the latter mostly Boy and Girl Scouts with their leaders, divided into two groups. Mrs. Kelly, acting as leader and instructor for the Girl Scouts, circled the north side of the campus, while the other group took a course around the south side.

The parched lawns everywhere gave evidence of California's driest season on record. The rainfall has been only .75 of an inch to date. The weather was mild and the sun shone weakly through a murky sky.

At noon both groups came together at the beginning of Strawberry Canyon and had luncheon. About one o'clock we resumed our walk up the canyon and visited the botanical gardens, where we found the Mockingbird which we saw there on our trip last year.

A census of the birds was kept with the following result: Red-tailed Hawks 2; Quail 20+; Killdeer 22+; Anna Hummingbirds 14; Red-shafted Flickers 6; Willow Woodpecker 1; Black Phoebes 5; Coast Jays 5; California Jays 14; Plain Titmice 2; Bush-tits 137+; Wren-tits 5; Vigors Wrens 7; Mockingbird 1; Thrasher 1; Robins 17; Hermit Thrushes 31; Ruby-crowned Kinglets 18; Pipits 88+; Audubon Warblers 18; Townsend Warblers 2; English Sparrows 5; Purple Finches 3; House Finches 6; Spotted Towhees 9; Brown Towhees 42; Juncos 3; Nuttall Sparrows 56; Golden-crowned Sparrows 40; Fox Sparrows 4; Song Sparrows 11.

Members attending: Messrs. and Mesdames Myer, Stephens; Mrs. Kelly; Misses Berg, Cockefair, Danz, Stanton, Taylor; Messrs. Kirker, Millard.

Christmas Bird Census at Benicia

Benicia, California, December 21, 1936, from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Clear at 8 a. m., but low, dense tule fog rolling in shortly thereafter and obscuring vision except at close range until about noon. Higher fog in the afternoon. No wind; temperature 48° at start, 55° at return. Observers traveling together by automobile with frequent stops to canvass the marsh and hills along highway between Benicia and Cordelia, the two towns being 14 miles apart.

Pied-billed Grebe 2; California Heron 3; American Egret 10; Black-crowned Night Heron 12; Whistling Swan 52; White-fronted Goose 50; Mallard 13; Baldpate 3; Pintail 200; Green-winged Teal 9; Shoveller 18; Canvas-back 300; Lesser Scaup Duck 6; Ruddy Duck 2000; Red-breasted Merganser 1; White-tailed Kite 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Marsh Hawk 15; Sparrow Hawk 27; Valley Quail 14; American Coot 1500; Killdeer 17; Black-bellied Plover 1; Red-backed Sandpiper 36; Western Sandpiper 5; Glaucous-winged Gull 17; Western Gull 45; California Gull 8; Short-billed Gull 18; Burrowing Owl 8; Short-eared Owl 1;

Anna Hummingbird 4; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-shafted Flicker 53; Black Phoebe 3; Say Phoebe 5; Nicasio Jay 28; Plain Titmouse 2; California Bush-tit 36; Winter Wren 2; San Joaquin Wren 1; Suisun Marsh Wren 8; Rock Wren 1; Mockingbird 2; Robin 18; Hermit Thrush 4; Western Bluebird 29; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 12; Pipit 37; Shrike 30; Audubon Warbler 15; Yellow-throat 1; Meadowlark 400; San Francisco Red-wing 250; Tri-colored Blackbird 300; Brewer Blackbird 14,000; House Finch 2; Willow Goldfinch 3; Green-backed Goldfinch 8; San Francisco Towhee 1; San Francisco Brown Towhee 2; Savannah Sparrow 100; Junco 12; Nuttall Sparrow 135; Golden-crowned Sparrow 28; Suisun Song Sparrow 40. Total, 66 species, about 19,972 individuals.

Most of the Ruddy Ducks were floating in large flocks on the Southampton Bay at Benicia. On the sloughs and marshes this species is customarily found singly or a few individuals together. Whistling Swans were approached within 75 yards near Cordelia. Kites well observed through field glasses.

Emerson A. Stoner and James M. Barkley.

Christmas Bird Census for San Francisco

The Christmas census for San Francisco, embracing Fort Mason, the Marina, the Presidio, the ocean beach, Golden Gate Park, Sunset Boulevard and Lake Merced, was taken on Sunday, December 20, 1936, from 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. The weather was cloudy, no wind, a light shower at 12:15 and heavy rain from 2:30 on, with an average temperature of 50°. This year has been the driest year on record in California, the rainfall to date being only 1:10 inches for San Francisco.

	Fort Mason to Beach	Golden Gate Park	Lake Merced
Western Grebe	10	-----	37
Pied-billed Grebe	9	28	78
Mallard	37	698	56
Baldpate	44	1	61
Pintail	3	12	2
Green-winged Teal	-----	3	4
Ring-necked Duck	66	9	26
Canvas-back Duck	63	123	4
Lesser Scaup	-----	29	6
Ruddy Duck	34	125	16
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-----	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	-----	2
Sparrow Hawk	-----	1	1
Quail	112	246	-----
American Coot	423	447	431
Killdeer	230+	443	42
Glaucous-winged Gull	184+	11	9
Western Gull	49	3	114
Herring Gull	13	-----	4
California Gull	620+	112	1500+
Ring-billed Gull	27	2	7
Short-billed Gull	140	-----	50+
Anna Hummingbird	34	55	28
Red-shafted Flicker	14	11	2
Black Phoebe	9	10	5
Barlow Chickadee	24	56	31
Coast Bush-tit	18	148	65
Vigors Wren	2	10	5
Western Robin	8	25	3
Hermit Thrush	18	34	9
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	2	-----
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	16	44	9

	Fort Mason to Beach	Golden Gate Park	Lake Merced
American Pipit	17	60	18
Audubon Warbler	32	68	212
Townsend Warbler	.....	4	2
Yellow-throat	1	.....	30
English Sparrow	162	92	.....
Western Meadowlark	31	3	5
Brewer Blackbird	502	20	165
House Finch	36	5	21
San Francisco Towhee	5	16	9
Junco	12	51	12
Nuttall Sparrow	240	571	185
Golden-crowned Sparrow	12	11	.....
Fox Sparrow	2	11	14
Song Sparrow	26	37	49

In addition to the above, the following birds were observed only along the Marina, in the Presidio, at Mountain Lake and at the beach: Common Loon 1; Brown Pelican 30; Farallon Cormorant 9; Brandt Cormorant 36; Surf Scoter 9; Sora 1; Snowy Plover 9; Surf-bird 25; Black Turnstone 43; Sanderling 74; Winter Wren 2; Green-backed Goldfinch 1; making a total of 53 species, 3479 individuals by observers Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Miss Pringle; Messrs. B. C. Bremer and Chas. A. Bryant.

Golden Gate Park only: Redhead 8; a total of 42 species, 3646 individuals by observers Commander and Mrs. Parmenter; Mesdames Courtright, Kelly; Misses Danz, Knox, Rinehart, Taylor, Werner; Messrs. Jencks, Thomas.

Lake Merced only: Eared Grebe 114; California Heron 4; American Bittern 1; Gadwall 5; Shoveller 3; American Golden-eye 2; American Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 7; Red-bellied Hawk 1; Virginia Rail 1; Florida Gallinule 2; Marbled Godwit 1; Western Belted Kingfisher 1; Creeper 1; Tule Wren 24; Cedar Waxwing 3; California Shrike 1; Myrtle Warbler 5; San Francisco Redwing 2; Purple Finch 3; Willow Goldfinch 7; making a total of 63 species, 3520 individuals by observers Messrs. Bolander, Kirker, Millard, Myer, Schmidt, Carl R. Smith.

The total for the entire territory covered was 80 species, 10,698 individuals.

It is interesting to note that the Common Loon appears this year for the first time since 1917.

The American Bittern was seen at Lake Merced after an absence of three years.

Mallards were found in greater numbers than ever before. Miss Danz counted 400 on Spreckels Lake and reported: "The lake was covered with birds. I counted them and could not believe my count or my eyes, so counted them all over again. It was feeding time and was a stirring sight." Commander and Mrs. Parmenter also took a count of the Mallards on this lake and reported 405.

Gadwalls appear for the first time, five being seen at Lake Merced by Mr. Gordon Bolander. In fact, this is a new bird for the Association's life-list.

American Golden-eyes were seen for the first time since 1932.

No Buffle-head ducks were seen this year. Our records for the three previous years show that only females were seen.

The Red-bellied Hawk observed by Gordon Bolander at Lake Merced is another new record added to the Association's life list. He also reported that he saw a Red-tailed Hawk strike and kill a Killdeer and that he found another at the edge of the lake which for some reason was unable to fly. He caught it and took it to the Fleishhacker Zoo.

Florida Gallinules have returned to Lake Merced. This species has only been seen once before on our census, that was in 1928.

Snowy Plovers appear after having been off the list for three years.

At Fort Mason in a group of about a hundred Killdeer resting in a dried field, one individual of very much lighter plumage was observed. When the Killdeer were disturbed and took flight this strange bird accompanied them. When they settled down and closer observation became possible, this bird was identified as a Sanderling. This seemed to be rather a strange place to find a Sanderling.

Ruddy Turnstones were missing for the first time since 1928.

The Marbled Godwit seen by Gordon Bolander at Lake Merced is also a new record for our Christmas census.

Gordon Bolander also reported an Anna Hummingbird at Lake Merced carrying nesting material.

Audubon Notes

January Meeting: The 20th annual meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 14th, at 8 o'clock, room 19, Ferry Building.

Annual reports will be read and officers and directors will be elected for the ensuing year.

There will be some interesting problems presented for discussion.

January Field Trip will be taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, the 17th. San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9:20 a. m. and the Grand Avenue car on the Twenty-second Street train, leaving the car at Grand Avenue and Perkins Street, where party will meet. Bring luncheon.

The annual census of the ducks will also be taken and a request is made for volunteers.

1937 Dues: The annual dues for the year of 1937 are now payable and all members are asked to make their remittances as early as possible to the Treasurer. It is requested that all checks be made in the name of the Audubon Association of the Pacific.

Observations: Mrs. Norman C. Compton, 1420 Bonita Avenue, Berkeley, reports, under date of December 10th, having a Mockingbird in her garden for the past six weeks. It is fond of feeding on Lantana berries.

On December 7th, Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Stephens observed on the Borden Highway two White-tailed Kites and over 350 Whistling Swans.

On Christmas evening at Franklin and Green Streets, perched on the top of the street sign pole was a Burrowing Owl. He flew across the street to a fence and upon being approached by Mr. and Mrs. Stephens he again took flight to a fence farther in.

Mr. Jencks reports that on December 30th beside the Key Route fill he observed at least six Wilson Snipes.

December Meeting: The 232nd regular meeting was held on the 10th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with fifty members and guests present. President Junea W. Kelly presiding.

Mrs. Walter W. Bradley of San Francisco was elected to regular membership.

Dr. Pickwell gave a very interesting talk on the life histories of the Monarch and Swallowtail Butterflies, illustrated with some remarkably fine slides showing the various stages of development from caterpillar to butterfly.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.
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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.
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